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Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF SHORT COURSES OF LOW-FREQUENCY ELECTRIC MYOSTIMULATION IN PATIENTS HOSPITALIZED FOR DECOMPENSATED CHRONIC HEART FAILURE

Poster Contributions

Poster Hall B1

Sunday, March 15, 2015, 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

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Background: to evaluate efficacy and safety of short courses of low-frequency electric myostimulation (EMS) in patients hospitalized for decompensated chronic heart failure (CHF) in early terms of hospital treatment.

Methods: 51 patients (67,7% male, mean age $65,3 \pm 3,8$ years) hospitalized for decompensated CHF were enrolled in the study. Patients were randomized into two comparable groups: group 1 of effective EMS ($n=28$) and group 2 of sham myostimulation ($n=23$). Besides standard medical treatment in 2-3 days after admission to hospital patients from both groups underwent low-frequency stimulation of skeletal muscles of anterior and posterior surfaces of thigh and shin. The procedure was carried out using electromyostimulator "Stimulus-01" generating bipolar symmetric square-wave electric impulses with pulse duration of $1 \pm 0,5$ ms at a frequency of 25 ± 1 Hz in cyclic regimen ($1 \pm 0,1$ s - stimulation, $2 \pm 0,1$ s - rest). Average duration of the procedure amounted $60,0 \pm 20,0$ minutes in both groups. In group of effective EMS amplitude of the impulses was adjusted individually up to maximally tolerated, in group of sham stimulation - amplitude was minimal. Physical tolerance and quality of life were evaluated at baseline and after treatment using visual-analogue scale (VAS), 6-minute walk test (6-mwt), Duke Activity Status Index (DASI) and Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire (MLHFQ).

Results: Patients from group 1 and group 2 showed reliable improvement of well-being according to VAS (from $3,5 \pm 1,0$ to $7,1 \pm 0,8$ and from $3,3 \pm 0,95$ to $7,06 \pm 0,77$ accordingly) and quality of life according to MLHFQ (from $53,4 \pm 7,6$ to $35,6 \pm 7,8$ and from $55,5 \pm 7,37$ to $46,5 \pm 8,3$ accordingly); $p < 0,05$ for all. Statistically reliable ($p < 0,05$) improvement of physical activity according to DASI (from $11,1 \pm 4,9$ to $18,4 \pm 6,9$) and 6-mwt (from $202,2 \pm 65,9$ to $295,9 \pm 77,1$ m) was observed only in group of effective EMS.

Conclusion: Functional electric stimulation of lower limb skeletal muscles using "Stimulus-01" leads to improvement of physical tolerance and can be safely used in patients with CHF early after decompensation.